

Call for Artists/Cultural Workers

Wolf Square Design and Community Engagement

The Partnership for Healthy Cities with Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) and Boston Transportation Department (BTD) are seeking an artist and/or cultural worker to engage and collaborate with community members to imagine and design new pedestrian friendly spaces surrounding Wolf Square in the Garrison Trotter neighborhood in Roxbury. Teams of people/firms are welcome to apply. The work would take place May through September of 2021. The fee for the artist is approximately \$10,000 and the budget for the entire project is approximately \$20,000. **APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 16**



Background

BPHC leads the Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) Task Force that includes representatives of BTD, Boston Public Schools (BPS), Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), and Massachusetts SRTS. During community engagement for a SRTS traffic calming project in the neighborhood surrounding the Ellis Elementary School, residents noted that Harold Street where it intersects with Abbotsford Street and with Crawford Street is particularly crash prone. In 2018 there were five crashes at Harold and Abbotsford, and two crashes at Harold and Crawford (crash data provided by Boston Police Department).

Residents noted, and the crash data confirmed that:

- The two cross streets (Crawford and Abbotsford) are spaced very closely together
- Drivers speed when traveling southbound on Harold Street
- Vehicles on Abbotsford Street are hard to see behind fence lines and vegetation

To reduce crashes in this location and make it safer for people who walk, wheel/roll, bike, and drive, we would like to use temporary materials to make Harold Street one-way northbound between Abbotford and Crawford Streets, and to close one leg of Abbotford to general traffic. In the space that is reclaimed, we would like the artist to help residents imagine how it could become a space for people to enjoy, and to build that space with the help of residents and others in the community.



Artist/Cultural Engagement Scope

We would like to engage the services of someone who lives in Roxbury and/or has cultural connections with the neighborhood to help us with the following tasks:

- Communicate
 - Provide support to BTDC at neighborhood drop-in events where we will discuss transportation safety issues at this intersection. Help city staff share information about how closing a leg of Abbotford and other proposed traffic

calming tools, such as [corner parking restrictions](#), could help to reduce crashes and improve safety.

- With the City's help, identify a core group of residents and Ellis school students and staff willing to meet and participate in the design and implementation of the project
- At scheduled meetings, facilitate discussions with the core group to create a shared vision of how road space on Abbotsford adjacent to the Wolf Square triangle could be designed for neighborhood use and enjoyment
- Imagine and Design
 - Develop two or three design options for the reclaimed space. The designs could include art, planters, places to sit, interpretive features, etc.
 - Share with the core group and narrow it down together to one option
- Implement
 - Create a list of items needed to build the preferred option. Purchase materials in the neighborhood to the extent possible
 - Hire youth and others in the neighborhood to build the project
- Program
 - Suggest ways to program the space. This could include art, dance, music, group exercises and other activities spread throughout the summer. City staff would be on hand to discuss the safety aspects of the project and how people can stay engaged.
 - Hire residents to assist with programming
- Plan for removal
 - Identify locations in the neighborhood to store seasonal items (plants, seating, etc).
- Evaluate
 - Provide feedback to the city and the neighborhood on the process and the success of the project

Budget and Compensation

The fee for the artist is approximately \$10,000, and the budget for the entire project is approximately \$20,000, including purchase of materials, installation, hiring of assistants in the community, and hiring local residents to do programming. The payment schedule is negotiable based on the needs of the artist/cultural leader and project. Funds for materials, installation, and hiring assistants will be dispersed upon request. Final budget amount and final funding is subject to approval by [The Partnership for Healthy Cities](#).

How to Apply

Please email to Mary Bovenzi (mbovenzi@bphc.org) at the Boston Public Health Commission:

- A brief (1-2 pages) letter of interest describing your qualifications (for all members of your team if multiple project leaders), connection to the community, and the process of how you would approach the project
- 2-3 examples of your work, including for each example the date, location, photos, and if relevant, sponsors and partners

The SRTS Task Force may request an online meeting to discuss your proposal in advance of making a final selection

The Deadline for the application is May 16th.

A decision will be made by May 20th.

Timeline

May	Begin neighborhood outreach. The city will distribute flyers and will schedule drop-in sessions at Wolf Square to discuss the project and introduce the creative team to community members.
June	Identify a core team of residents willing to meet weekly and advise. Meet weekly with the core team. 1st week: Begin developing design concepts. 2nd week: Share design concepts with the residents for feedback, and develop the preferred design. 3rd week: Identify a fabricator (if needed) and order materials for installation. 4th week: Identify opportunities for programming and begin scheduling this.
July	Install the design, with community involvement. Coordinate with residents to host the programming
Aug-Sep	Continue programming through Labor Day. Schedule winter storage of seasonal items or other disposition. Share feedback on the process and the project in a memo and meeting with the city and the residents

Selection Criteria

The SRTS Task Force seeks to commission artists and/or cultural workers who engage communities, enrich and enliven the urban environment, are driven by a strong creative vision, and respond directly to a specific environment.

For this project, we will favor artists/cultural workers who:

- Have a strong, original, creative vision
- Demonstrate cultural connections to the Roxbury community
- Have experience in community engagement in the Garrison Trotter neighborhood
- Demonstrate experience working with schools and youth
- In past projects have shown consideration of the neighborhood, site, and cultural themes

Please don't spend time preparing a design for the space! We believe artists should be paid for their design work, and so are only accepting proposals that include examples of past work.

We believe that artists should be credited for their work, and so may reject submissions that contain images of other artists' creative works without crediting them or clearly identifying the submitters' role.

Non-Discrimination

The SRTS Task Force will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, ancestry, or disability, nor will it fund projects that discriminate on these attributes.

Questions? Send an email on or before May 12 to one of the following people:

- Mary Bovenzi (mbovenzi@bphc.org) at the Boston Public Health Commission
- Charlotte Fleetwood (charlotte.fleetwood@boston.gov) at Boston Transportation Department